IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND
NORTHERN DIVISION

BROADCAST MUSIC, INC.; HYDROPONIC MUSIC; SONGS OF UNIVERSAL, INC.; SONY/ATV SONGS LLC; FALL OUT BOY INC. d/b/a CHICAGO X SOFTCORE SONGS; VELVET APPLE MUSIC; NIGHT GARDEN MUSIC, a division of R.E.M./ATHENS, LTD.; BMG RIGHTS MANAGEMENT (US) LLC d/b/a BMG PLATINUM SONGS (US) Plaintiffs vs. GT ABERDEEN LLC d/b/a THE GREENE TURTLE; and ROBERT FRANKIS, individually Defendants	)	Civil Action No.

COMPLAINT

Plaintiffs, by their attorneys, for their Complaint against Defendants, allege as follows (on knowledge as to Plaintiffs; otherwise on information and belief):

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. This is a suit for copyright infringement under the United States Copyright Act of 1976, as amended, 17 U.S.C. Sections 101 et seq. (the "Copyright

Act"). This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Section 1338(a).

2. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Section 1400(a).

THE PARTIES

3. Plaintiff Broadcast Music, Inc. ("BMI") is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York. BMI's principal place of business is 7 World Trade Center, 250 Greenwich Street, New York, New York 10007. BMI has been granted the right to license the public performance rights in approximately 10.5 million copyrighted musical compositions (the "BMI Repertoire"), including those which are alleged herein to have been infringed.

4. The Plaintiffs other than BMI are the owners of the copyrights in the musical compositions which are the subject of this lawsuit. All Plaintiffs are joined pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 17(a) and 19(a).

5. Plaintiff Hydroponic Music is a partnership owned by Nicholas L. Hexum, Chad Sexton, Timothy J. Mahoney, Douglas Martinez, and Aaron Wills. This Plaintiff is the copyright owner of at least one of the songs in this matter.

6. Plaintiff Songs of Universal, Inc. is a corporation. This Plaintiff is the copyright owner of at least one of the songs in this matter.

7. Plaintiff Sony/ATV Songs LLC is a limited liability company. This Plaintiff is the copyright owner of at least one of the songs in this matter.

8. Plaintiff Fall Out Boy Inc., is a corporation doing business as Chicago

X Softcore Songs. This Plaintiff is the copyright owner of at least one of the songs in this matter.

9. Plaintiff Velvet Apple Music is a sole proprietorship owned Dolly Parton. This Plaintiff is the copyright owner of at least one of the songs in this matter.

10. Plaintiff Night Garden Music is a division of R.E.M/Athens, Ltd. which is a limited liability company. This Plaintiff is the copyright owner of at least one of the songs in this matter.

11. Plaintiff BMG Rights Management (US) LLC is a limited liability company doing business as BMG Platinum Songs (US). This Plaintiff is the copyright owner of at least one of the songs in this matter.

12. Defendant GT Aberdeen LLC is a limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of the State of Maryland which operates, maintains and controls an establishment known as The Greene Turtle, located at 1113 Beards Hill Road, Aberdeen, Maryland 21001 in this district (the "Establishment").

13. In connection with the operation of the Establishment, Defendant GT Aberdeen LLC publicly performs musical compositions and/or causes musical compositions to be publicly performed.

14. Defendant GT Aberdeen LLC has a direct financial interest in the Establishment.

15. Defendant Robert Frankis is an owner of Defendant GT Aberdeen LLC with responsibility for the operation and management of that limited liability

company and the Establishment.

16. Defendant Robert Frankis has the right and ability to supervise the activities of Defendant GT Aberdeen LLC and a direct financial interest in that limited liability company and in the Establishment.

CLAIMS OF COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT

17. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege each of the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 16 hereof as if the same were fully set forth herein.

18. Since May 2010, BMI has reached out to Defendants over 100 times, by phone, by an in-person visit, by mail, and by email, in an effort to educate Defendants as to their obligations under the Copyright Act with respect to the necessity of purchasing a license for the public performance of musical compositions in the BMI repertoire. Included in the letters were Cease and Desist Notices, providing Defendants with formal notice that they must immediately cease all use of BMI-licensed music in the Establishment.

19. Plaintiffs allege six (6) claims of willful copyright infringement, based upon Defendants' unauthorized public performance of musical compositions from the BMI Repertoire. All of the claims for copyright infringement joined in this Complaint are governed by the same legal rules and involve similar facts. Joinder of these claims will promote the convenient administration of justice and will avoid a multiplicity of separate, similar actions against Defendants.

20. Annexed to this Complaint as a schedule (the "Schedule") and incorporated herein is a list identifying some of the many musical compositions

whose copyrights were infringed by Defendants. The Schedule contains information on the six (6) claims of copyright infringement at issue in this action. Each numbered claim has the following eight lines of information (all references to "Lines" are to lines on the Schedule): Line 1 providing the claim number; Line 2 listing the title of the musical composition related to that claim; Line 3 identifying the writer(s) of the musical composition; Line 4 identifying the publisher(s) of the musical composition and the plaintiff(s) in this action pursuing the claim at issue; Line 5 providing the date on which the copyright registration was issued for the musical composition; Line 6 indicating the copyright registration number(s) for the musical composition; Line 7 showing the date(s) of infringement; and Line 8 identifying the Establishment where the infringement occurred.

21. For each work identified on the Schedule, the person(s) named on Line 3 was/were the creator(s) of that musical composition.

22. For each work identified on the Schedule, on or about the date(s) indicated on Line 5, the publisher(s) named on Line 4 (including any predecessors in interest) complied in all respects with the requirements of the Copyright Act and received from the Register of Copyrights Certificates of Registration bearing the number(s) listed on Line 6.

23. For each work identified on the Schedule, on the date(s) listed on Line 7, Plaintiff BMI was (and still is) the licensor of the public performance rights in the musical composition identified on Line 2. For each work identified on the Schedule, on the date(s) listed on Line 7, the Plaintiff(s) listed on Line 4 was/were

(and still is/are) the owner(s) of the copyright in the respective musical composition listed on Line 2.

24. For each work identified on the Schedule, on the date(s) listed on Line 7, Defendants publicly performed and/or caused to be publicly performed at the Establishment the musical composition identified on Line 2 without a license or permission to do so. Thus, Defendants have committed copyright infringement.

25. The specific acts of copyright infringement alleged in the Complaint, as well as Defendants' entire course of conduct, have caused and are causing Plaintiffs great and incalculable damage. By continuing to provide unauthorized public performances of works in the BMI Repertoire at the Establishment, Defendants threaten to continue committing copyright infringement. Unless this Court restrains Defendants from committing further acts of copyright infringement, Plaintiffs will suffer irreparable injury for which they have no adequate remedy at law.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray that:

(I) Defendants, their agents, servants, employees, and all persons acting under their permission and authority, be enjoined and restrained from infringing, in any manner, the copyrighted musical compositions licensed by BMI, pursuant to 17 U.S.C. Section 502;

(II) Defendants be ordered to pay statutory damages, pursuant to 17 U.S.C. Section 504(c);

(III) Defendants be ordered to pay costs, including a reasonable attorney's fee, pursuant to 17 U.S.C. Section 505; and

(IV) Plaintiffs have such other and further relief as is just and equitable.

Dated: February 22, 2017

OFFIT KURMAN, P.A.

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